

the motion to concur in the House amendments to the Senate amendments to H.R. 976, the Children's Health Insurance Act of 2007.

The motion to concur with the amendments is withdrawn.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 353 Leg.]

#### YEAS—67

Akaka	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Alexander	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Harkin	Pryor
Bayh	Hatch	Reed
Bingaman	Hutchison	Reid
Bond	Inouye	Roberts
Boxer	Johnson	Rockefeller
Brown	Kennedy	Salazar
Byrd	Kerry	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Kohl	Smith
Carper	Landrieu	Snowe
Casey	Lautenberg	Specter
Clinton	Leahy	Stabenow
Coleman	Levin	Stevens
Collins	Lieberman	Sununu
Conrad	Lincoln	Tester
Corker	Lugar	Warner
Dodd	McCaskill	Webb
Domenici	Menendez	Whitehouse
Dorgan	Mikulski	Wyden
Durbin	Murkowski	
Feingold	Murray	

#### NAYS—29

Allard	Crapo	Kyl
Barrasso	DeMint	Lott
Bennett	Dole	Martinez
Bunning	Ensign	McConnell
Burr	Enzi	Sessions
Chambliss	Graham	Shelby
Coburn	Gregg	Thune
Cochran	Hagel	Vitter
Cornyn	Inhofe	Voinovich
Craig	Isakson	

#### NOT VOTING—4

Biden	McCain
Brownback	Obama

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased that this bill has passed with such a substantial vote.

This bill now goes to the President. I hope the President will be persuaded by the strong bipartisan support this bill has and will sign the bill.

As it customary, I want to thank the staff who have worked so hard to produce this bill.

From the House: Bridgett Taylor, Amy Hall and Andy Schneider.

From Senator BAUCUS's staff: Russ Sullivan, Bill Dauster, Michelle Easton, and Alice Weiss, and avid Schwartz.

I would like to thank my staff: Kolan Davis, Mark Prater, Mark Hayes, Becky Shipp, Rodney Whitlock, Steve Robinson, Shaun Freiman, and Sean McGuire.

Thanks as well to Senator HATCH's staff, Pattie DeLoatche, and thanks to Senator ROCKEFELLER's staff: Jocelyn Moore and Ellen Doneski.

Finally, I want to extend deep appreciation to the congressional support agencies on which Members and our staff rely.

From the Office of Legislative Counsel, thanks to Ed Grossman, Jessica Shapiro, and Ruth Ernst.

From the Congressional Research Service, thanks to Richard Rimkunas, Chris Peterson, Elicia Herz, April Grady, and Evelyn Baumrucker.

From the Congressional Budget Office, thanks to Director Peter Orszag, Tom Bradley, Eric Rollins, and Jeanne De Sa.

Again, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

#### INCREASING THE STATUTORY LIMIT ON THE PUBLIC DEBT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is on passage of H.J. Res. 43, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 354 Leg.]

#### YEAS—53

Akaka	Enzi	Murkowski
Barrasso	Feingold	Murray
Baucus	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Grassley	Reid
Bond	Gregg	Roberts
Byrd	Hagel	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Hatch	Schumer
Cardin	Inouye	Shelby
Carper	Johnson	Snowe
Casey	Kennedy	Specter
Cochran	Kyl	Stabenow
Coleman	Landrieu	Stevens
Collins	Levin	Sununu
Conrad	Lieberman	Vitter
Corker	Lott	Warner
Domenici	Lugar	Whitehouse
Dorgan	Martinez	Wyden
Durbin	McConnell	

#### NAYS—42

Alexander	Dodd	McCaskill
Allard	Dole	Menendez
Bayh	Ensign	Mikulski
Bingaman	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Boxer	Harkin	Pryor
Brown	Hutchison	Reed
Bunning	Inhofe	Salazar
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Chambliss	Kerry	Sessions
Coburn	Klobuchar	Smith
Cornyn	Kohl	Tester
Craig	Lautenberg	Thune
Crapo	Leahy	Voinovich
DeMint	Lincoln	Webb

#### NOT VOTING—5

Biden	Clinton	Obama
Brownback	McCain	

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 43) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

#### MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 52, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 52) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

#### EXTENDING THE MEDICARE SECTION 508 PROGRAM

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, Senator CASEY and I, along with our colleagues, Senators STABENOW, CONRAD, LAUTENBERG, SCHUMER and DORGAN, filed an amendment to H.J. Res. 52, the appropriations continuing resolution for fiscal year 2008, to extend the Medicare section 508 program for 2 years. For a considerable period of time, there have been a number of hospitals in Pennsylvania and across the country that have been suffering from low Medicare wage index reimbursement, which has caused them great disadvantage in comparison to surrounding areas. Hospitals in these counties are surrounded by MSAs—metropolitan statistical areas—with higher Medicare reimbursements, and as a result, a flight of critical medical personnel occurs as hospitals are not able to provide employees with competitive wages.

During the consideration of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, I met with Finance Committee chairman CHARLES GRASSLEY and ranking member MAX BAUCUS about the bill provisions, including the need for a solution to the Medicare area wage index reclassification problem in Pennsylvania. Section 508 was included in the bill, which provided \$300 million per year for 3 years to increase funding for hospitals nationally to be reclassified to locations with higher Medicare reimbursement rates. As part of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act, which was signed into law on December 20, 2006, a 6-month extension of the section 508